

Serial No. 09/414333

Amendment dated April 30, 2004

Response to Final Office Action dated February 27, 2004

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### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-24 were presented and examined. The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, and 5-7 under 35 USC § 102(a), as being anticipated by Klemba *et al.* (USPN 5,651,068). The Examiner rejected claims 3, 8, 9, 11, and 19 under 35 USC § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Klemba and Official Notice taken *infra*. The Examiner indicated claims 4, 12, and 20 as reciting allowable subject matter. In this response, Applicant has amended claims 1, 10, and 17 and canceled claims 3, 4, 11, 12, 19, and 20. Claims 1, 2, 5-10, 13-18, and 21-24 remain pending.

#### Claim rejections under 35 USC § 102(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, and 5-7 under 35 USC § 102(a), as anticipated by Klemba *et al.* (USPN 5,651,068), hereinafter Klemba. In response, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of presented claims 3 and 4 (now canceled), amended independent claim 10 to incorporate the limitations of previously presented claims 11 and 12 (now canceled), and amended independent claim 17 to incorporate the limitations of previously presented claims 19 and 20 (now canceled). Consistent with the Examiner's determination that claims 4, 12, and 20 recited allowable subject matter, Applicant believes that independent claims 1, 10, and 17 as amended and their respective dependent claims recite allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant would request the Examiner to enter the submitted amendments and withdraw the rejections of the remaining pending claims.

In the present response, Applicant has responded to Examiner's claim rejections under 35 USC § 102(a) and 35 USC § 103(a). Accordingly, Applicant believes that this response constitutes a complete response to each of the issues raised in the office action. In light of the amendments made herein and the accompanying remarks, Applicant believes that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant would request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections, allow the pending claims, and advance the application to issue. If the

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Examiner has any questions, comments, or suggestions, the undersigned attorney would welcome and encourage a telephone conference at 512.428.9872.

Respectfully submitted,



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